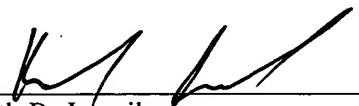




IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : KERN et al.) I hereby certify that this paper (and/or
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RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION OF JANUARY 20, 2006

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action dated January 20, 2006, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks. This response is timely filed as it is accompanied by a Petition for a three month extension of time and requisite fee, extending the response deadline to July 20, 2006. This response is also accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination and requisite fee.

The Status of the Claims is reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.